



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

August 22, 2006

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

TO: Principals, Out-placement Administrators, and Educators Participating in the RI Alternate Assessment Program

FROM: Cynthia Y. Corbridge, Office of Assessment and Accountability
Phyllis Meloro, Office of Special Populations

SUBJECT: Upcoming Professional Development Sessions for the 2006 - 2007 Rhode Island Alternate Assessment (RIAA) Program

This memorandum is to provide you with information about the RIAA workshops for the 2006-2007 school year. The RIAA is administered in grades 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 and includes the content areas of mathematics and reading at every assessed grade and writing at grades 4, 7, and 10. These workshops are designed for teachers of Alternate Assessment students and provide these educators with the practical details needed for their students' assessments. Every teacher with eligible students including those who participated in last year's pilot program, is strongly encouraged to attend the trainings. The revised "Criteria for Participation in the RIAA" is attached. Please use this updated version to determine student eligibility.

The model for the RI Alternate Assessment that was piloted last year will be implemented beginning this academic year. This new design is a datafolio-based system that documents student performance on Alternate Grade Span Expectations across the school year. It was been developed for those students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in the state assessment system, New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), even with accommodations. Because this is a new model for the RIAA and because it differs greatly from the previous model, we will be conducting **full day** workshops for educators.

Workshop information is included at the end of this letter. Please note that the same workshop will be repeated four times during the week of September 18th. A second workshop will be repeated four times during the week of September 25th. Educators should register for one day of training for each of the two weeks and are urged to sign up for both workshops at the same time. As in previous years, teachers must register electronically for a session. Sessions will be removed from the registration site when the seating capacity has been reached OR one week prior to the date. Registration details are also included in this mailing.

For questions or more information about the Alternate Assessment, please contact either one of us email at cynthia.corbridge@ride.ri.gov or by telephone, 222-8497 or Phyllis Meloro, Office of Special Populations by email at phyllis.meloro@ride.ri.gov or by telephone, 222-4693.

cc: Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Curriculum Directors, Special Education Directors and Testing Coordinators
Amy Grattan, Paul V. Sherlock Center, Rhode Island College
Sue Dell, Paul V. Sherlock Center, Rhode Island College
Susan Izard, Measured Progress

Rhode Island Alternate Assessment Teacher Training Workshop Schedule

DATES	EVENT
Week of August 14, 2006	Administrator Training Workshops
Week of September 18, 2006 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Full day session – lunch will be provided	Initial teacher trainings
Week of September 25, 2006 Crowne Plaza at the Crossings 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Full day session – lunch will be provided	Second teacher trainings
November 29 & 30, 2006 Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Drop in Session #1
Week of January 8, 2007 Crowne Plaza at the Crossings 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Full day session – lunch will be provided	Third teacher trainings
February 27 & 28, 2007 Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Drop in Session #2
April 24 & 25, 2007 Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Drop in Session #3

Registration information:

Register online at: <http://iregister.measuredprogress.org>

Click on "Rhode Island Alternate Assessment Program"

Choose one session for Training #1 and one session for Training #2

Bring your confirmation registration with you to the trainings.

If you have any difficulties registering, or if you need special accommodations for the session (for example: sign language interpreter, dietary restrictions, etc.), please contact Jane Twombly at Measured Progress: 1-800-431-8901 x2188. Special accommodation requests must be made prior to the registration deadline.

Registration begins approximately 4 weeks before each session and closes 1 week prior to the session date
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